

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 1, second full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

A¹ An ink jet recording apparatus used in a large number of ~~prints~~ printers adopts such an ink supply structure that an ink cartridge such as a cassette is put in a casing member, the ink cartridge is connected through an ink supply tube to an ink supply unit mounted on a carriage, and ink consumed in printing is supplied to a recording head through the ink supply unit including a differential pressure valve mechanism comprising a membrane valve.

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 1, third full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

A² By adopting this structure, ~~the ink~~ according to the amount of ink consumption in the recording head, ink can be supplied to the recording head by opening and closing of the membrane valve.

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 2, second full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

A³ According to this membrane valve, the through-hole can be brought into contact with or separated from a valve seat correspondingly to the very small differential pressure using the bending portion. However, since it is necessary for this membrane valve to simultaneously form a frame portion having a large section which functions as a support portion at its periphery, there is a disadvantage in that it is necessary to be skilled in constituting at a high accuracy the bending portion that affects elasticity of the membrane valve greatly.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/070,381

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.

A4
An angled portion that is concentric with respect to an ink passing port (4) is formed in a central region (7) of a membrane portion (2) to function as an elasticity providing portion, whereby the influence produced when a thick portion is injection molded at the periphery is removed from affecting elasticity of a membrane valve.
